



PATENT
5589-04201/P993

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Stokowski et al.

Serial No. 10/679,844

Filed: October 6, 2003

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR
INSPECTING RETICLES USING
AERIAL IMAGING AT OFF-STEPPER
WAVELENGTHS

Group Art Unit: 2877
Examiner: Stafira, Michael Patrick

Atty. Docket. 5589-04201

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Pamela Gerik
Pamela Gerik

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir/Madam:

The Examiner has explained some reasons that claims 1-20 are allowable over the prior art in the section of the Notice of Allowability entitled "Allowable Subject Matter." The Notice of Allowability states that "Claims 2-9 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 1." (Notice of Allowability -- page 2). The Notice of Allowability also states that "Claim 11 is allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 10." (Notice of Allowability -- page 2). The Notice of Allowability further states that "Claims 13-20 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 12." (Notice of Allowability -- page 3). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-9, 11, and 13-20 are not only allowable based on their dependency to claims 1, 10, and 12, respectively, but are allowable based on features of these claims in combination with features of independent claims 1, 10, and 12, respectively.

If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to deposit account number 50-3268/5589-04201.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Marie Mewherter
Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 50,484

Daffer McDaniel LLP
P.O. Box 684908
Austin, Texas 78768-4908
(512) 476-1400
Date: February 3, 2006